

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of transmitting data between a ground segment and a plurality of airborne segments comprising:

a forward link including:

obtaining a first data stream at said ground segment, the first data stream including a data header having routing information and a data payload having other information;

packet compressing said first data stream into a packet compressed first data stream including:

~~to maintain~~ said data header in an uncompressed state to maintain said routing information; and

~~while compressing~~ said data payload in a compressed state;

sending said packet compressed first data stream to said plurality of airborne segments; and

if said routing information in said data header matches an address of at least one of said plurality of airborne segments, de-compressing said packet compressed first data stream at least at said one of said plurality of airborne segments; and

a return link including:

obtaining a second data stream at least at one of said plurality of airborne segments;

bulk compressing said second data stream into a bulk compressed second data stream including:

~~to compress~~ all of said second data stream in a compressed state;

sending said bulk compressed second data stream to said ground segment; and

de-compressing said bulk compressed second data stream at said ground segment.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising framing said first data stream after said step of packet compressing said first data stream and prior to said step of sending said packet compressed first data stream to said plurality of airborne segments.

3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising spreading said first data stream after said step of packet compressing said first data stream and prior to said step of sending said packet compressed first data stream to said plurality of airborne segments.

4. (original) The method of Claim 3 wherein said spreading step further comprises applying a forward error correction code to said first data stream.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising modulating said first data stream after said step of packet compressing said first data stream and prior to said step of sending said packet compressed first data stream to said plurality of airborne segments.

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising spreading said second data stream after said step of bulk compressing said second data stream and prior to said step of sending said bulk compressed second data stream to said ground segment.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein said spreading step further comprises applying a forward error correction code to said second data stream.

8. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein said spreading step further comprises applying a chipping code to said second data stream.

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising modulating said second data stream after said step of bulk compressing said second data stream and prior to said step of sending said bulk compressed second data stream to said ground segment.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of de-compressing said packet compressed first data stream at least at said one of said plurality of airborne segments further comprises packet de-compressing said first data stream.

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10 further comprising de-modulating said first data stream prior to said step of de-compressing said first data stream at said one of said plurality of airborne segments.

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10 further comprising de-spreading said first data stream prior to said step of de-compressing said first data stream at said one of said plurality of airborne segments.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12 wherein said de-spreading step further comprises applying an inverse forward error correction code to said first data stream.

14. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10 further comprising de-framing said first data stream prior to said step of de-compressing said first data stream at said one of said plurality of airborne segments.

15. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of de-compressing said bulk compressed second data stream at said ground segment further comprises bulk de-compressing said second data stream.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15 further comprising demodulating said second data stream prior to said step of de-compressing said second data stream at said ground segment.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15 further comprising de-spreading said second data stream prior to said step of de-compressing said second data stream at said ground segment.

18. (original) The method of Claim 17 wherein said de-spreading step further comprises applying an inverse chipping code to said second data stream.

19. (original) The method of Claim 17 wherein said de-spreading step further comprises applying an inverse forward error correction code to said second data stream.

20. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising packet encrypting said first data stream prior to said step of sending said first data stream to said plurality of airborne segments.

21. (previously presented) The method of Claim 20 further comprising bulk encrypting said second data stream prior to said step of sending said second data stream to said ground segment.

22 – 27. (cancelled)